

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated November 10, 2003. Claims 1 to 43 remain pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 20, 41 and 43 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 6, 9, 10, 20, 21, 25, 28, 29, 41 and 43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Microsoft Word 2000 Screen Dumps in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,377,243 (Tomoda), Claims 3 to 5, 7, 8, 11 to 15, 22 to 24, 26 and 30 to 34 were rejected under § 103(a) over Microsoft Word 2000 Screen Dumps in view of Tomoda and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,991,396 (Salm), and Claims 16 to 19, 27, 35 to 40 and 42 were rejected under § 103(a) over Microsoft Word 2000 Screen Dumps in view of Tomoda and Salm and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,717,426 (Ohkado). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

The present invention concerns processing of character strings. According to the invention, a user performs an operation to have a listing that includes a plurality of registered character strings displayed on a display screen. The user selects a registered character string from among those displayed in the displayed list, where the selection is performed by a user instruction. Then, the user selects an area on the display screen by pointing to a position on the display screen with a cursor, such as an address input box, such that the selected character string is then caused to be displayed on the display screen at the position pointed by cursor. As a result, a registered character string can be easily selected from a displayed list of a plurality of character strings and then can be caused to be displayed at another position pointed by a cursor on a display screen.

With specific reference to the claims, independent Claim 1 is a character processing method, comprising the steps of displaying a list including a plurality of registered character strings on a display screen, a user selecting from the displayed list, based on a user instruction, a character string from among the displayed list including the plurality of character strings, and causing the selected character string to be displayed on the display screen at a position pointed by a cursor when the character string has been selected in the selecting step from among the displayed list according to the user instruction.

Independent Claims 20, 41 and 43 are apparatus, computer-readable medium and computer program claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 1.

The applied art, alone or in combination, is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of independent Claims 1, 20, 41 and 43. More particularly, the applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of a user selecting from a displayed list of registered character strings, based on a user instruction, a character string from among the displayed list of character strings, and causing the selected character string to be displayed on the display screen at a position pointed by a cursor when the character string has been selected from among the displayed list according to the user instruction.

The Microsoft Word 2000 screen dump operates on an entirely different principal than the present invention. In this regard, the screen dump depicts an autocorrect function in which an AutoCorrect window is displayed for a user to input (i.e., register) autocorrections that are to be automatically performed by the program. After a user registers the autocorrections, the autocorrect window which displays the registered autocorrection strings is closed. Then, when a user is typing in the Word program and they

type a typographical error, the incorrectly typed symbol or word is autocorrected by the program automatically replacing the incorrect symbol or word with the corresponding autocorrect symbol or word(s). Thus, the autocorrect symbol or word that is inserted in the Word program in place of the incorrect symbol or word is automatically selected by the Word program and is not selected by a user selecting a character string, based on a user instruction, from the displayed list of registered character strings. Moreover, since the user does not select the character string from the list, the user also does not cause the selected character string to be displayed at a position pointed by a cursor.

Referring now to Figures 2 and 3 of the screen dump, a user can utilize the autocorrection feature of the Word program as a shortcut, wherein the user types in a symbol (such as “~”) with a space afterwards. The autocorrect feature of the Word program recognizes the incorrect symbol “~” and replaces it with the phrase “It would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to”. Thus, Figures 2 and 3 simply provide an example of how the autocorrect feature may be used as a shortcut. However, none of the screen dumps depict a user selecting a registered character string from a among a plurality of registered character strings that are displayed on a list of character strings, and then causing the selected character string to be displayed on the display screen at a position pointed by a cursor when the character string has been selected from among the displayed list according to the user instruction.

Tomoda is merely seen to disclose that a user clicks on letters of a displayed software keypad to form a word. The user can then drag and drop the word onto a window so that the word is input into the window. However, Tomoda is not seen to disclose that a user selects a character string from among a displayed list of a plurality of character strings,

or that the selected character string (which is selected from the displayed list) is caused to be displayed on a display at a position pointed by a cursor.

Applicant also submits that, even if the screen dumps and Tomoda could have been combined at the time of the invention, a point which Applicant does not concede, the proposed combination still would not have resulted in the present invention. In this regard, Applicant submits that a combination of the screen dumps and Tomoda would have, at best, provided for a user to drag a word entered on a software keypad onto a wordprocessing window of the screen dumps so that the word is entered into the wordprocessing window. Once the word is entered by the drag and drop operation, the autocorrect function of the screen dumps would automatically replace the drag and drop text with corresponding autocorrect text. Therefore, the proposed combination still would not have resulted in a user selecting from a displayed list of registered character strings, based on a user instruction, a character string from among the displayed list of character strings, and causing the selected character string to be displayed on the display screen at a position pointed by a cursor when the character string has been selected from among the displayed list according to the user instruction.

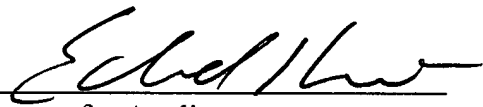
Salm and Ohkado have been studied but are not seen to add anything that, when combined with the screen dumps and Tomoda, would have resulted in the present invention. In particular, any proposed combination of the screen dumps, Tomoda, Salm and Ohkado, still would not have resulted in a user selecting from a displayed list of registered character strings, based on a user instruction, a character string from among the displayed list of character strings, and causing the selected character string to be displayed on the display screen at a position pointed by a cursor when the character string has been selected from among the displayed list according to the user instruction.

In view of the foregoing deficiencies of the applied art, Claims 1, 20, 41 and 43, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, are believed to be allowable.

No other matters having been raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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